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DE RUEHRA #0451 2401437  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 281437Z AUG 09  
FM AMEMBASSY RIGA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6025  
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC

UNCLAS RIGA 000451

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS  
DEPT FOR EEB/TPP/ABT, AND EUR/ERA  
STATE ALSO PLEASE PASS USTR USDA/FAS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [EUN](#) [TBIO](#) [LG](#)  
SUBJECT: LATVIA: NO POSITION YET ON SOY ISSUE BUT AGAINST BIOTECH  
ANIMAL FEED

REF: SECSTATE 86566

11. (SBU) Latvia is aware of the suspension of U.S. soy product imports, but has not developed a formal position on the issue. Pol/Econ Off delivered reftel demarche to Inese Birgele, head of the MFA's International Trade and Investment Division, and to Janis Briedis, deputy director of the MOA's International Affairs and Strategy Analysis Department. Mr. Briedis said the GOL is very unlikely to raise the issue during the September 7 Agricultural Council meeting.

12. (SBU) Regarding the GOL's general position on biotechnology products, Mr. Briedis said that Latvian law completely bans their use or cultivation. Also, the Parliament's European Affairs Committee decided that Latvia will vote 'no' in the European Union on licensing new biotech products for cultivation and on providing market access to biotech products, including livestock feed.